

*Rhynchosia courtallensis* van der Maesen, a new name  
for the South Indian *Dunbaria latifolia* Wt. & Arn.  
(Leguminosae-Papilionoideae)

L. J. G. van der Maesen

Department of Plant Taxonomy, Wageningen Agricultural University,  
P. O. Box 8010, 6700 ED Wageningen, The Netherlands

**Abstract**

*Dunbaria ferruginea* and *D. latifolia* are easily confused. They are based on two different specimens from the same gathering (Wight Herb. Prop. 878). Later authors always considered these taxa as conspecific. The correct generic position of the latter is in *Rhynchosia*. Since none of the earlier epithets given to this taxon is available in its new generic position, a new name is herewith proposed. A detailed description and other relevant notes are also provided.

Wight and Walker-Arnott (1834: 258-259) based the genus *Dunbaria* on three species: *D. heynei*, *D. ferruginea*, and *D. latifolia*, when they founded it. The latter two species were described on the basis of two different elements of the same accession, stated as "Wight Herb. propr. 878, (partly)". The protologue gives the distribution of *D. ferruginea* as 'Neelgherries and Mysore', and that of *D. latifolia* as 'Dindygul Hills'. A note on one of the type sheets in K mentions that two species are mixed up: *Hae dua species, in herb. Wight, proprio, eodem numero gaudent, posterior solummodo distributo fuit: prior forsitan n. 879 adscribi debet.* The protologue also states that *D. latifolia* has 1-2-seeded pods, a character typical for *Rhynchosia* but not exclusively so.

Wight and Arnott were convinced that these species were distinct, despite their admittance of the fact that of *Dunbaria ferruginea* "Our specimens of this species are neither numerous nor perfect, but if the above characters be constant, it can scarcely be united with the following" (i.e. *D. latifolia*). Subsequent authors treated these taxa as conspecific under the name *D. ferruginea* (Baker 1876, Sanjappa 1992). After careful study of the types and other available specimens, I found the two taxa quite distinct.

*D. latifolia* has short inflorescences, 1-2 ovuled ovaries (as already stated in the protologue) broad top leaflets, often conspicuously truncate at

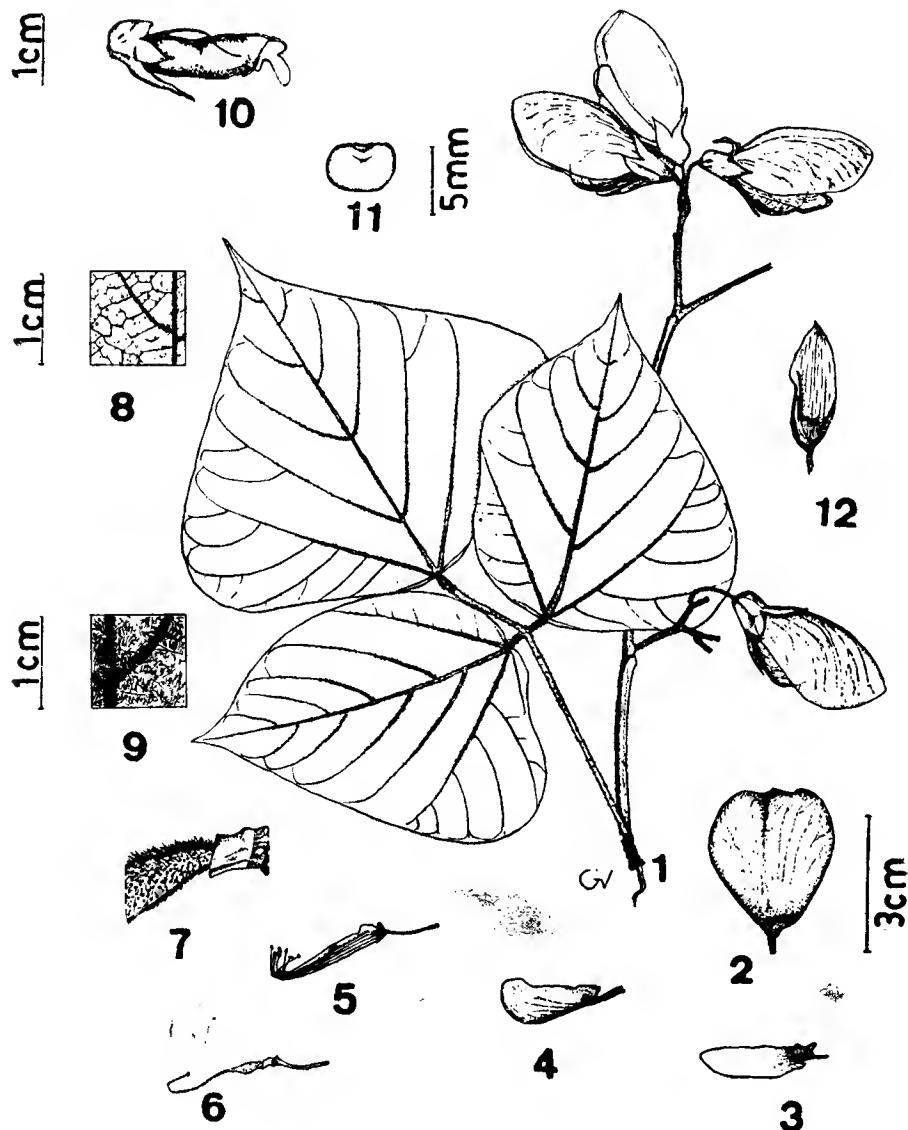
A new name for *Dunbaria latifolia* Wt. & Arn.

Fig. 1. *Rhynchosia courallensis* Maesen: 1: flowering branch; 2: vexillum; 3: wing; 4: keel; 5: stamens; 6: pistil; 7: base of pistil, showing disk; 8: detail of upper leaflet surface; 9: detail of lower surface; 10: young pod, floral parts removed; 11: young seed; 12: bract, inside. Sources: 1, 3: Beddome 2344 (BM); 2, 4-7, 12: G. Thomson s.n. (G); 8, 9: Van der Maesen 3467 (WAG); 10, 11: Wight 769 (MEL).

L. J. G. van der Maesen

the base, broad hooded standard with curved veins, and reniform seeds. *D. ferruginea* has longer inflorescences, 5—6 ovuled ovaries, rhomboid top leaflets, obovate vexillum dorsally red, not conspicuously veined, and roundish-compressed seeds.

With the 1—2 seeded pods *D. latifolia* belongs in *Rhynchosia*. Beddome (in herb.) already observed this fact and one of his accessions (*Beddome* s. n., communicated 8/1879, K) bears in pencil the epithet *grandifolia*. In the genus *Rhynchosia* that epithet is occupied by the basionym of *Eriosema grandifolia* (Schlecht. & Cham.) G. Don, a Mexican species, and the epithet *latifolia* is occupied for a species from the Southern USA. As both epithets are not available for the south Indian taxon, this leaves us no choice than giving a new name for it. Consequently, the taxon is renamed here as *Rhynchosia courtallensis* van der Maesen and a revised description is provided.

***Rhynchosia courtallensis* van der Maesen, *nom. nov.***

*Dunbaria latifolia* Wt. & Arn., Prodr. Fl. Pen. Ind. Or. 258. 1834, *nom. illeg.*

*D. ferruginea* sensu Baker, is Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 217. 1876; Sanjappa, Leg. India 168. 1992 in part.

Type: Peninsular India, *Wight* Herb. Propr. 878 pro parte, *descriptio anglica* (K, holo; iso: A, BM, C, E, G, P).

(Fig. 1, p., Map, Fig. 2, p.)

Perennial climber. *Branches* about 3—5 m long, 2—4 mm diameter, striate. Indumentum shortly tomentose, yellow-brown to ferruginous when young, vesicular glands yellow, turning orange with age. Stipules triangular, 2 mm long, caducous, hairy. Leaf rachis striate, subjugal part 2.5—5 cm, suprjugal part 1—2 cm. Leaflets dark green, sparsely short-pubescent above, densely greyish-brown-tomentose below, brown on the veins; top leaflet broad-triangular to almost trilobed 6—10 cm long, 4—10 cm wide, apex acuminate-cuspidate, base broad-cuneate to truncate; side leaflets obliquely orbicular, 4—7 cm long, 3—6 cm wide, apex obtuse to acuminate, base rounded; petiolules 2—4 mm long; stipellae minute, caducous, 0.5 mm. Pseudoracemes simple or once branched; peduncles short, 1—4 cm, (1)-2—6-flowered; pedicels 4—7 mm. Bracts ovate, up to 2.5 cm long, 1 cm wide, veined, pubescent on both sides, the veins greyish-hairy especially outside. Calyx pubescent, also inside, tube ca. 7 mm long, upper teeth 6—7 mm long, connate except for the apex, lateral teeth triangular, 4—5 mm long, lowest tooth narrowly elliptic, ca. 7—9 mm long. Corolla bright yellow; standard red dorsally, alae and keel with glandular dots.

A new name for *Dunbaria latifolia* Wt. & Arn.

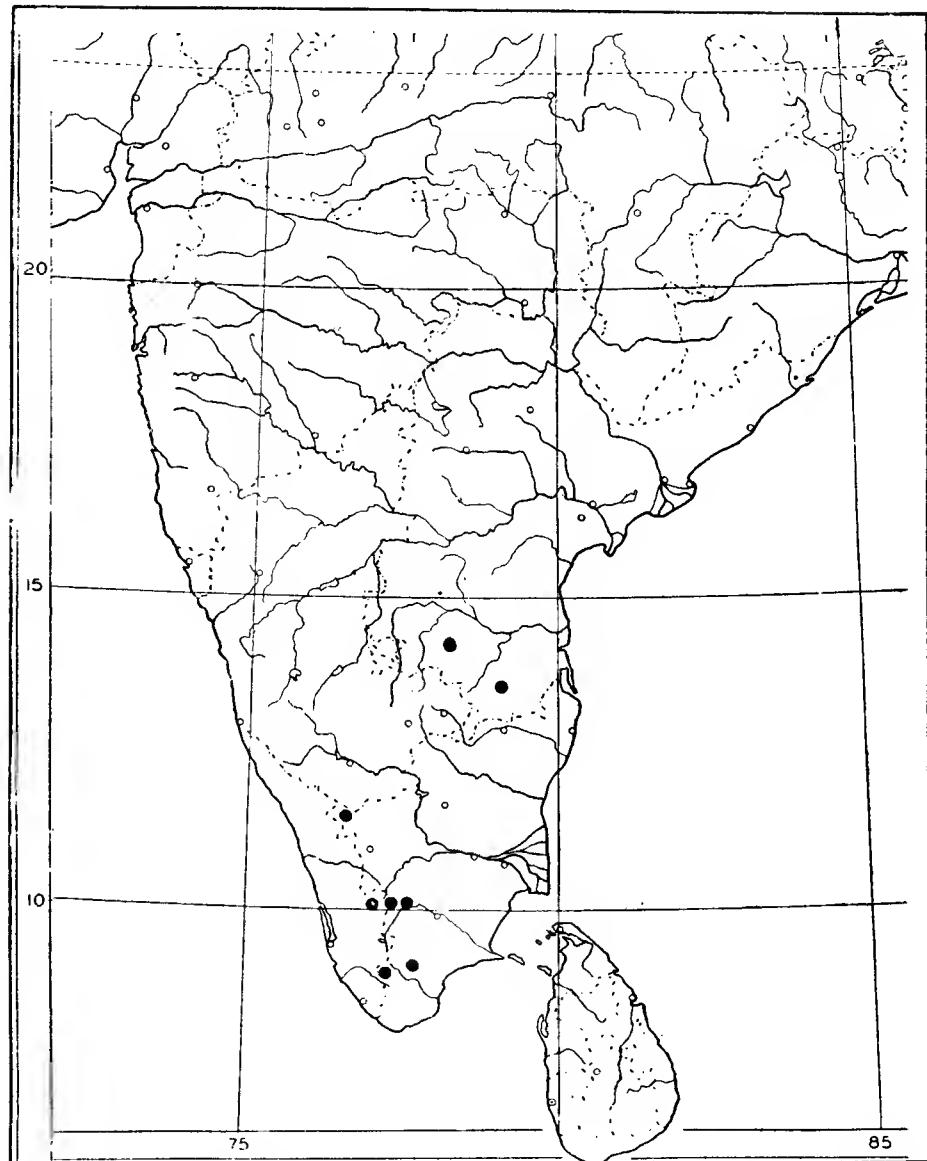


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Rhynchosia courallensis* in southern India.

L. J. G. van der Maesen

vexillum obovate, ca. 28–35 mm long, ca. 20–30 mm wide, apex rounded, base clawed, biauriculate, veins curved towards the lateral margins; wings oblong, ca. 19 mm long, 3–4 mm wide, one auricle dorsally, two auricles below; keel slightly curved, 19–22 mm long, 8–9 mm wide, ventrally adnate with a strong suture. Stamens 20–25 mm long, apical 5–7 mm free, anthers basidorsifixed. Ovary densely hairy ca. 8–10 mm long, yellow glands present, 2 ovuled; style ca. 15 mm long hairy, sparsely so the distal 5 mm; stigma oblique. Pods oblong, 2-seeded. Seeds reniform, only immature available.

*Distribution*: S. India, altitude up to 500 m, possibly higher.

*Ecology*: Climber on trees and shrubs.

*Flowering*: Jan. - Feb. *Fruiting*: Mar. - Apr.?

*Specimens examined*: INDIA: sine loc. *Heyne* s.n. ("*Cylista ferruginea*"), (BM, LE, LIV); *Wight* s. n. (E, K). Andhra Pradesh: Cuddapah Hills, *Beddome* s.n. (BM); Guramkonda, Cuddapah distr., *Gamble* 15043 (K). Karnataka: Maisor & Carnatic, *Thomson* s.n. (A, BM, BRI, C, G, K, L, OXF, P, S, US, W). Kerala: 53.5 km N of Munnar, *van der Maesen* 3467 (ICRISAT, K, WAG). Tamil Nadu: Kodaikanal region, Palni Hills, Anglade comm. *Uhl* s.n. (A); Mundanthurai ghat, Tinnevelly distr., *Barber* 2782 (K); Paapanassum, Tinnevelly, *Beddome* 2344 (BM, K); Kollimalai, Trichinopoly distr., Madras Herb. 12905 (K); Old Courtallum jungle, *van der Maesen* 3070 (ICRISAT, WAG); 45 km W of Kodaikanal, *van der Maesen* 3509 (ICRISAT, K, WAG); Nilgiris, Herb. Martii (BR); Courtallum, *Wight* 769 p.p. (A, C, DD, K, L, LE, MEL, S, W); Cantocady Mochay, Cunnevady, *Wight* 878 p.p. (A, BM, C, G, K, LE, P).

*Notes*: The epithet 'courtallensis' is after one of the locations where Wight collected the plant (no. 769) in February 1836, and where I found a specimen in December 1977, Courtallum or Kuttalam in the Western Ghats mountain range, in Tamil Nadu, India. The only sheet indicating Courtallum for Wight 769 (K) happens to be a *Dunbaria ferruginea*, but it is likely that the other specimens mixed in this number were collected at the same spot.

The syntype sheets *Wallich* 5572 C (*Wisteria?* hb. *Wight*) contain both *D. latifolia* and *D. ferruginea*. *Wight* Herb. prop. 769 appears to be a mixture of *Dunbaria ferruginea* and *Rhynchosia rufescens* (Willd.) DC.

A new name for *Dunbaria latifolia* Wt. & Arn.

This species is in need of additional collecting in order to obtain more information about phenology, ecology and pod and seed shape. The apparent similarity to the locally quite common *Dunbaria ferruginea* probably caused this species to be overlooked. It is likely that *Rhynchosia courallensis* belongs to the section *Rhynchosia* (= *Eurhynchosia* W. & A.). Specimens are known only from the four south Indian states Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. As it usually occurs together with *Dunbaria ferruginea* in South India, it is possible that *Rhynchosia courallensis* will be present in Sri Lanka as well.

## Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Ir. G.J.A. Vonk for the line drawing, and appreciate having had the specimens on loan from the herbaria cited.

## Literature cited

Baker, J. G. 1879. Leguminosae, In: J. D. Hooker, *Flora of British India*, London: Vol 2: 217.

Sanjappa, M. 1992. *Legumes of India*, Dehra Dun: 168.

Wight, R. & Walker-Arnott, G. A. 1834 *Prodromus Florae Peninsulae Indiae Orientalis*, London 1: 258.